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FAT ALBERT & the COSBY KIDS

Buzzy's Rebound

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FAT ALBERT & the COSBY KIDS

Buzzy's Rebound

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
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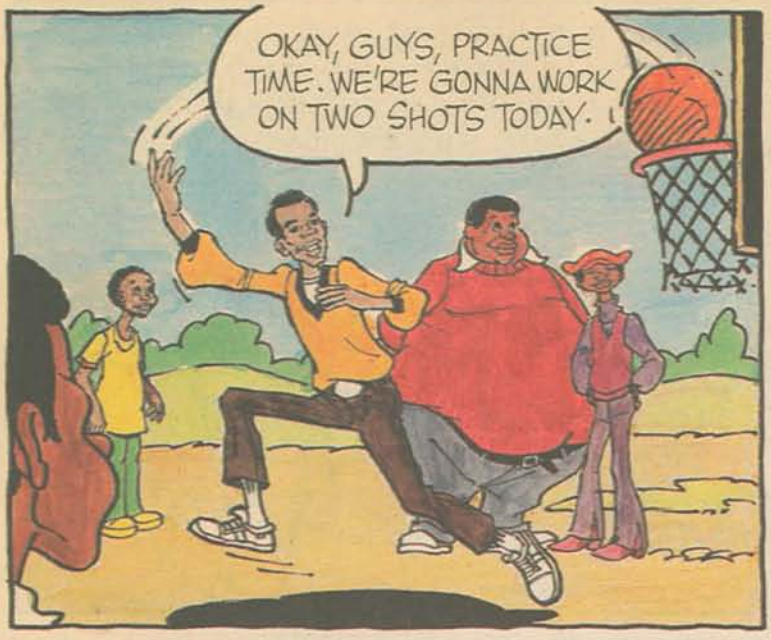
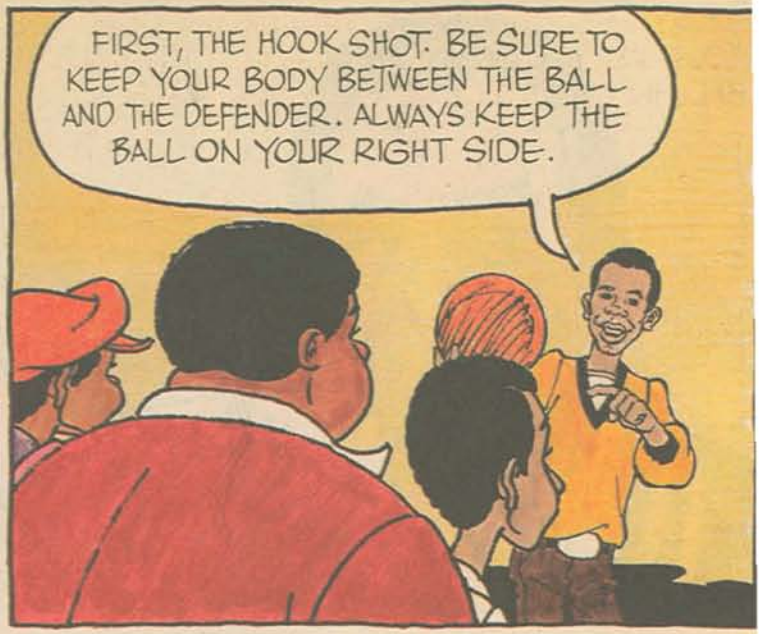
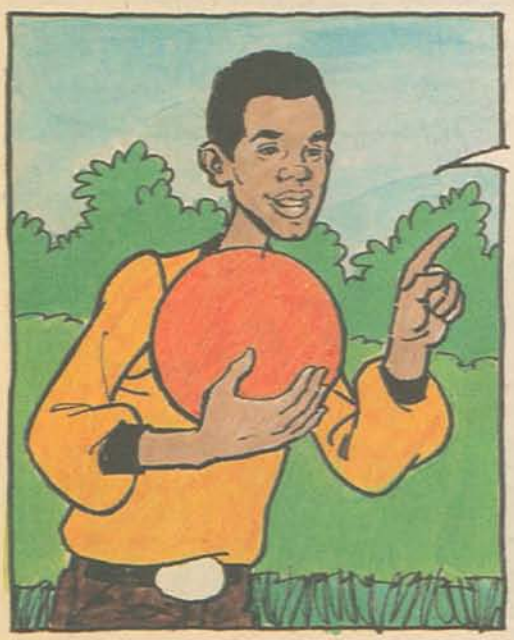
COACH CONNOR WANTS BUZZY, THE NEW KID IN TOWN, TO GIVE HIM A HAND TEACHING THE KIDS SOME MOVES ON THE BASKETBALL COURT. THE COACH DOESN'T KNOW IT YET BUT BUZZY HAS MORE THAN BASKETBALL SHOTS TO TEACH THE KIDS.
Drawn by Jim WILLOUGHBY
HEY! HEY! HEY! LOOK AT THAT NEW KID GO!
YEAH! HE'S JUST A SOPHOMORE AND HE MADE VARSITY!
HE'S GONNA BE A STAR... MAKE PRO!
BUZZY, I'LL BE OUT OF TOWN UNTIL THE BIG GAME ON FRIDAY. WILL YOU FILL IN FOR ME ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT THE SWIFT STREET PLAYGROUND?
YOU MEAN COACH SOME LITTLE GUYS?
SURE. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NEW IN TOWN THEY ALL KNOW YOU. THEY'RE WORKING ON BALL HANDLING... YOUR SPECIALTY.
SURE, COACH, NO PROBLEM.
ON MONDAY...
WOW, LOOK AT THAT GUY! HE SURE CAN WORK THAT BALL!

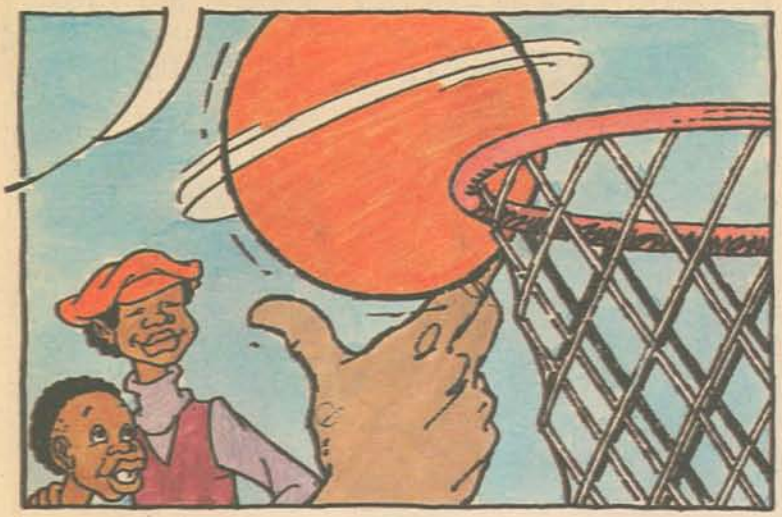






SECOND, THE JUMP SHOT. REMEMBER WHEN YOU LEAVE THE GROUND, RELEASE THE BALL AT THE HIGHEST POINT IN YOUR JUMP. USE YOUR WRISTS AND FOLLOW THROUGH.

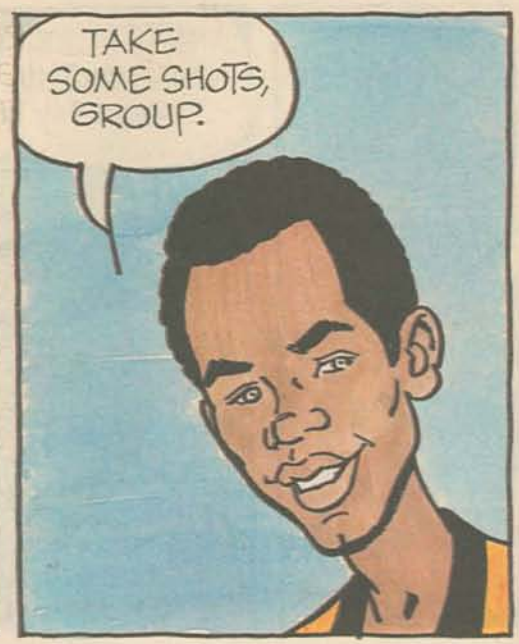
OKAY, THIS SHOT IS MY FAVORITE, THE FINGER ROLL. AS YOU GO BY THE BASKET JUST ROLL THE BALL IN OFF THE END OF YOUR FINGER.

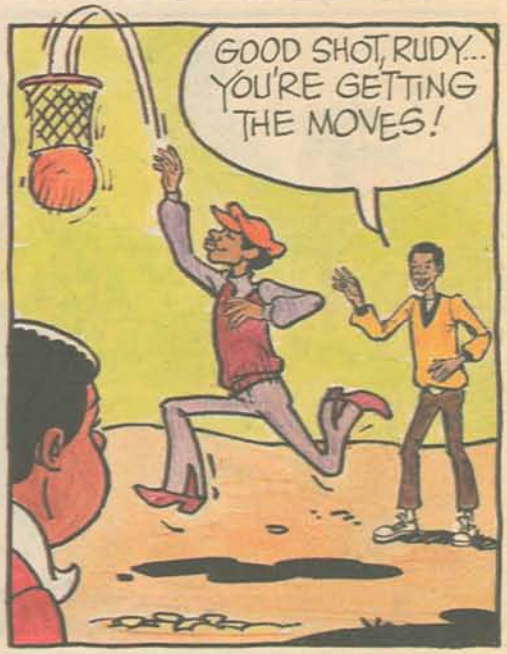


WOW, BUZZY, HOW LONG YOU BEEN DOING THAT?

ALL MY LIFE, I GUESS. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A PRO BALL PLAYER. IT'S NOT EASY. YOU HAVE TO WORK AT IT ALL THE TIME TO BE GOOD ENOUGH.

BUT I WON'T EVER PLAY PRO BALL.
IT'S STILL FUN TO DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR BUDDIES AND YOU CAN PRACTICE AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT IMPROVING YOUR SHOTS.





BUZZY HAS EARNED HIS LETTERS IN BASKETBALL. THAT KIND OF BALL HANDLING TAKES A LOT OF WORK, PRACTICE AND CONCENTRATION. KEEPING THAT BALL UNDER CONTROL IS REALLY IMPORTANT BUT OTHER THINGS NEED TO BE UNDER CONTROL TOO. WATCH THIS...

COME ON, GUYS, WORK THAT BALL... JUST FOUR WEEKS.... HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO MEET ANYBODY.
YOU'LL MAKE FRIENDS..YOU'RE AN OKAY DUDE!
YEAH! YOU'RE A STAR!
IT'S TOUGH BEING NEW IN TOWN AND NOT HAVING EVEN ONE CLOSE BUDDY.
DON'T WORRY, BUZZY. BEFORE YA KNOW IT YOU'LL HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU NEED!
HEY, BUZZ SAW, WHATCHA SAY?
YEAH, COME ON. HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH US. LEAVE THOSE BABIES.
YEAH! YOU HAD A HARD WORKOUT. YOU DESERVE SOME REFRESHMENTS!
NO, THANKS. THE COACH SAYS NO DRINKING!
AW, COME ON. WHO'S GONNA TELL THE COACH?
C'MON, BUZZ SAW. HAVE A DRINK. YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?
AND ANYWAY, WE'RE PRACTICING!
HE'S JUST A BABY. BEEN HANGING AROUND WITH THESE LITTLE GUYS SO LONG HE ACTS LIKE THEM.
YEAH, YEAH! THE COACH'S LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES. TOO STUCK UP TO BE ONE OF THE GUYS.

SEE, I TOLD YA HE WAS OKAY!
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, BUZZ. AND FRIENDS TAKE A LITTLE TASTE TOGETHER.
YEAH, BUZZ SAW, MY MAN, A LITTLE REFRESHMENTS NEVER HURT ANYBODY. LET'S TAKE OFF.
WELL... I GUESS WE CAN KNOCK OFF A LITTLE EARLY.
HEY! HEY! HEY! NO TIME FOR PLAY. THESE GUYS ARE MAKING IT THEIR OWN WAY.
BUZZY, ARE WE WORKING OUT WEDNESDAY? CAN WE GET SOME TIME IN?
SURE, GUYS, NO PROBLEM. MAYBE WE CAN HAVE A GAME, TOO.
SAY, FELLOWS, HOW'S IT GOING?
WE'VE BEEN WORKING OUT WITH THE NEW STAR OF THE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM.
YEAH, HE'S GOT IT ALL TOGETHER! THOSE HOOK SHOTS WORK EVERY TIME!
HE'S TEACHING US TO SHOOT LIKE HIM. WEDNESDAY HE'S GONNA SHOW US SOME TRICK SHOTS.
WHO IS THIS GUY?
BUZZY. HE SCORED 26 POINTS IN THE LAST GAME AT CENTRAL HIGH!
EVERYBODY'S COUNTING ON HIM TO BE THE BIG POINT GETTER ON FRIDAY.
HEY, THAT'S THE BIG CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, ISN'T IT?... CENTRAL HIGH'S FIRST CHANCE IN TEN YEARS TO WIN THE CITY TOURNAMENT.

SOUNDS LIKE A NICE GUY. I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM AROUND.
HE'S THE NEW GUY ON ELM.
HE'S A STAR! LEARNING HIS STYLE I'LL GO FAR!
HIS HANDS ARE QUICK AS LIGHTNING. ONLY HE QUIT EARLY TO GO OFF WITH SOME BIG GUYS... BUNKY AND HIS BAD NEWS GROUP.
WHAT GROUP YA TALKING ABOUT?
THOSE GUYS THAT HANG OUT ON CEDAR STREET MADE FRIENDS WITH BUZZY AND GAVE HIM A DRINK OF WHISKEY OR WINE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YEAH! AND AS SOON AS HE STARTED DRINKING WITH THEM OUR PRACTICE WAS OVER!
AW, YOU GUYS DON'T UNDERSTAND. STARS LIKE TO FEEL GOOD WHEN THEY'RE DOING THEIR STUFF. AND WETTING YOUR WHISTLE IS NO BIG DEAL, EVEN WITH THOSE GUYS.
YEAH, HE'S A COOL DUDE! TIME TO GO, MOVING TOO SLOW!
SEE YA LATER, MUDFOOT.
LATER THAT DAY...
THE KIDS SURE LOOK UP TO BUZZY. BUT BILL HAS A POINT ABOUT BUZZY'S NEW FRIENDS BEING BAD NEWS. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

ON WEDNESDAY THE COSBY KIDS ARE BACK ON COURT FOR THEIR SECOND LESSON WITH BUZZY.

FAT ALBERT AND THE KIDS WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON. EVERYBODY'S JUGGLING A BROWN PAPER BAG AND BALL BUT THERE'S SURE NOT A BASKETBALL GAME GOING ON. I HOPE I'M WRONG BUT I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO FIGURE IT OUT.

WHEW! THOSE GUYS ARE MEAN DUDES! WHY DOES BUZZY TAKE THAT ABUSE? WATCH THIS
YEAH!!!
I'M JUST GETTING WARMED UP.
I GOT SOMETHING THAT WILL DO THAT!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
THIS IS NOT MY DAY!
HEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR! I'M GOING GOOD AND I'M HOT!
GET LOST!
BREAK IT UP. IT'S LUNCH TIME AND YOU GUYS ARE GETTING CRAZY.

CAN'T MESS AROUND WITH THIS BUNCH. TIME FOR LUNCH.
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR PRACTICE?
BEAT IT, KID!
NO BASKETBALL GAME HERE. THEY'RE PLAYING ANOTHER KIND OF GAME.
BUZZY WAS JUST TIRED. YOU KNOW... BAD DAY OR SOMETHING. HE'LL WORK OUT WITH US TOMORROW.
HEY! HELLO THERE, YOUNG FELLOWS. WHAT'S THE DAY LIKE?
NOT MUCH, SIR.
I CAN'T SAY IT WAS THE DAY I HOPED FOR!
DIDN'T YOU GUYS GO TO LEARN SOME HOT TRICKS FROM WHAT'S HIS NAME?
YEAH, BUT...
DON'T START IN ON BUZZY. IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WASN'T HIS FAULT. HE WAS OUT OF CONTROL.
OKAY, GUYS, WHAT HAPPENED?
ALL I COULD MAKE OUT WAS THAT THERE WAS TOO MUCH DRINKING AND NOT ENOUGH PLAYING.
WHO WAS DOING "TOO MUCH DRINKING"?
BUZZY AND THE BIG GUYS WITH HIM.
NOT ONLY WERE THEY PASSING AROUND A BOTTLE BUT THEY WERE TRYING TO PUSH US AROUND.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. BUZZY IS AN OKAY DUDE BUT HE WAS MEAN TO US, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE WAS WITH THOSE GUYS.
AND HE LET THOSE GUYS MAKE FUN OF HIM. DID YOU SEE THAT?
WELL, YOU NEED TO LEARN SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL AND WHAT IT DOES TO THE MIND AND BODY.
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH BUZZY LETTING THOSE GUYS PUSH US AROUND?
YEAH! WHAT MAKES DRINKING ALCOHOL CHANGE AN OKAY DUDE LIKE BUZZY?
ALCOHOL CAN CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE ACT. SOMETIMES THEY GET SILLY; SOMETIMES ALCOHOL CAUSES THEM TO LOSE THEIR COOL. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS PEOPLE'S TEMPERS CAN FLARE UP AND THEY CAN GET MAD... EVEN FIGHT!

ALCOHOL GETS IN THE BLOOD STREAM AND GOES TO THE BRAIN. MANY PEOPLE BEGIN TO BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY WHEN THEY DRINK. SOMETIMES THEY DO OR SAY THINGS THEY LATER WISH THEY HADN'T.
BUT BUZZY IS A STAR. HOW COME HE LET THOSE GUYS TALK HIM INTO DRINKING AND ACTING THAT WAY? HE DOESN'T NEED TO PROVE ANYTHING BY DRINKING ALCOHOL. HE'S GOT MOVES LIKE A PRO.
MAYBE. BUT SOMETIMES KIDS WILL DRINK BECAUSE THEIR FRIENDS DO...EVEN IF THEY KNOW IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THEM.
YOU MEAN THEY DRINK JUST TO HAVE FRIENDS?
I SUPPOSE GUYS THINK IF THEY DIDN'T DO WHAT THEIR FRIENDS WANT THEM TO DO THEY WON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
BUZZY IS NEW IN TOWN. HE WANTS TO BELONG. AND MAYBE THESE GUYS ARE THE ONLY ONES TO BE FRIENDLY TO HIM. THEY OFFERED HIM A DRINK...SOMETHING THEY DO.
AFTER A FEW SIPS BUZZY STARTED MISSING BASKETS...DROPPING THE BALL. THE OLD MAGIC STARTED TO GO.
THE MORE YOU DRINK THE LESS ABLE YOU ARE TO FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS. DRINKING ALSO SLOWS DOWN REFLEXES AND COORDINATION...
SIMPLE BALL SHOTS BECOME DIFFICULT BECAUSE ALCOHOL AFFECTS THE WAY THE BRAIN SENDS MESSAGES TO THE BODY.
HEY! HEY! HEY! THE MORE YOU DRINK THE SLOWER YOU THINK!

THEN WHAT'S BUZZY'S PROBLEM? HE'S A SMART GUY. WHY DOESN'T HE COOL IT?
MANY TIMES GUYS DRINK TO BE A PART OF THE CROWD, BUT THEN THEY DRINK MORE AND MORE AND GET INTO TROUBLE OR CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THEMSELVES.
MAN, WHAT DOES ALL THAT HAVE TO DO WITH BUZZY?
ALCOHOL COULD BE THE REASON WHY BUZZY DIDN'T WANT TO TEACH US THE BALL TRICKS AND WHY HE LET THOSE GUYS BE MEAN TO US.
YEP. ALCOHOL CAN MESS UP HOW PEOPLE TREAT EACH OTHER.
ALCOHOL COULD ALSO BE WHY BUZZY MISSED THOSE EASY SHOTS HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE YESTERDAY.
YEP. YOU CAN'T PLAY PRO BALL OR ANY OTHER KIND OF BALL AFTER DRINKING. SOMETIMES IT ALSO MAKES YOU SICK.
YOU GUYS ARE CRAZY. BUZZY IS FINE. HE WAS JUST HANGING OUT WITH THE FELLAS...HAVING FUN.
YEAH, LIKE ACTING WEIRD, FIGHTING, GETTING SICK IS HAVING FUN, HUH?
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T LEARN THOSE TRICK SHOTS?
THAT MEANS WE NEED SOME TRICKS OF OUR OWN TO HELP BUZZY WITH THIS PROBLEM.
WELL I HOPE I WAS SOME HELP. MAYBE YOU GUYS CAN FIND OTHERS WHO CAN HELP, TOO.
ON FRIDAY...
SAY, KIDS, HOW DID PRACTICE GO THIS WEEK?
WELL, AH...I MEAN...YOU KNOW... WELL...

THAT NIGHT AT THE SCHOOL GYM...

TONIGHT CENTRAL'S **SABERS** MEET THE **HAWKS** FOR THE DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP. BOTH TEAMS ARE WARMING UP AND LOOK REAL GOOD. I DON'T SEE SABERS' STAR, BUZZY COLLINS. THEIR HOPES FOR THE TROPHY REST ON THIS YOUNG SOPHOMORE WHO JOINED THE TEAM JUST FOUR WEEKS AGO.

I SAW HIM EARLIER BEHIND THE SCHOOL... BUT THAT WAS A WHILE AGO.
HE WAS WITH THREE GUYS ON THE PARKING LOT WHEN I CAME IN.
I SEE HIS FOLKS HERE. WHERE IS THAT GUY?!
LATER...
WELL, FOLKS, AT HALF-TIME THE SABERS ARE DOWN BY EIGHT POINTS, WITH THE HAWKS WORKING HARD TO KEEP THE LEAD. STILL NO SIGN OF THE SABERS' BUZZY COLLINS. THE COACH SURE LOOKS PERTURBED.

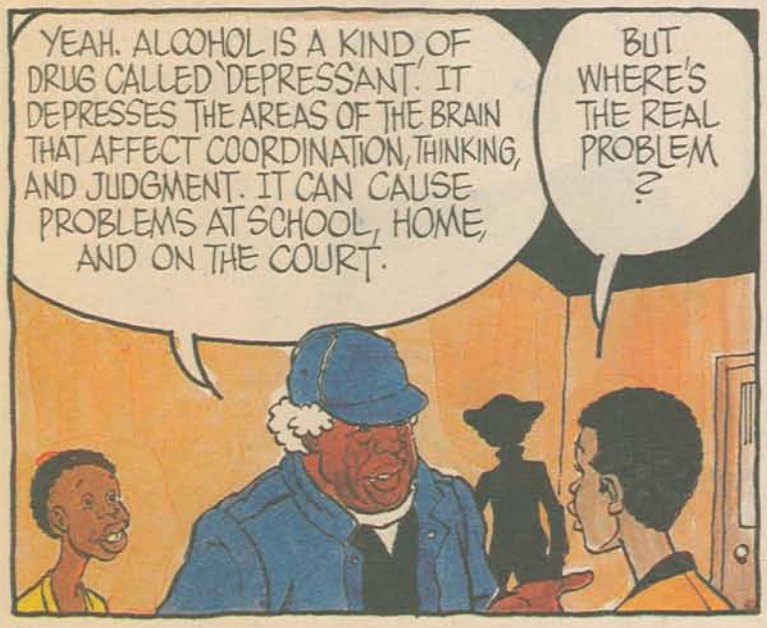
IN THE LOCKER ROOM AT HALF-TIME:

YOU GUYS NEED...
LOOK WHAT WE BROUGHT YOU... YOUR STAR, THE BUZZ SAW.
SORRY, COACH. I GOT TIED UP. I'LL BE IN UNIFORM IN A MINUTE.
...TO PERK IT UP!

AS THE GAME ENDS...
THIS HAS BEEN THE HARDEST FOUGHT GAME OF THE YEAR... AND A SURPRISE 71 TO 68 WIN FOR THE HAWKS. AS THE DEJECTED SABER TEAM LEAVES THE FLOOR, LET'S TRY TO GET A WORD WITH COACH O'CONNOR...
LET'S HAVE IT, BUZZY, WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU DIDN'T DO THE COACHING JOB, YOU CAME TO THE GAME LATE WITHOUT CALLING AND EXPECTED TO PLAY, AND YOUR GRADES AREN'T UP TO PAR.
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I'VE JUST BEEN HAVING A STREAK OF BAD LUCK.
IT'S...WELL, ALL OF A SUDDEN THINGS AREN'T GOING AS WELL AS THEY USED TO.
THERE'S LOTS OF HELP HERE IF YOU ASK FOR IT... THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR, YOUR TEACHERS...WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, BUZZY. FAT ALBERT AND THE KIDS TOLD US SOME OF WHAT HAPPENED ON...
I SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. THEY TOLD YOU ABOUT MY TAKING A TASTE.

YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE TO RAT ON ME!
WELL, MUDFOOT SAID WHEN LOTS OF FOLKS DRINK TOO MUCH THEY DO STRANGE THINGS. WE THINK YOU'RE A GREAT GUY AND DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET HURT.

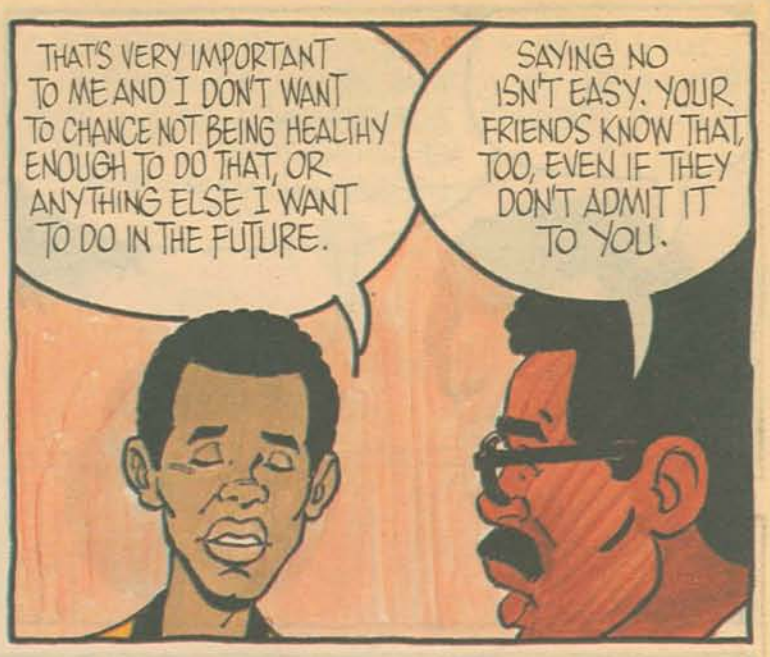
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT NOBODY BEING HURT. YOU'RE IN TROUBLE WITH YOUR GRADES, YOUR PARENTS, AND IF THIS CONTINUES, YOU'LL BE SUSPENDED FROM THE TEAM BECAUSE OF DRINKING AND HANGING OUT WITH THOSE GUYS.

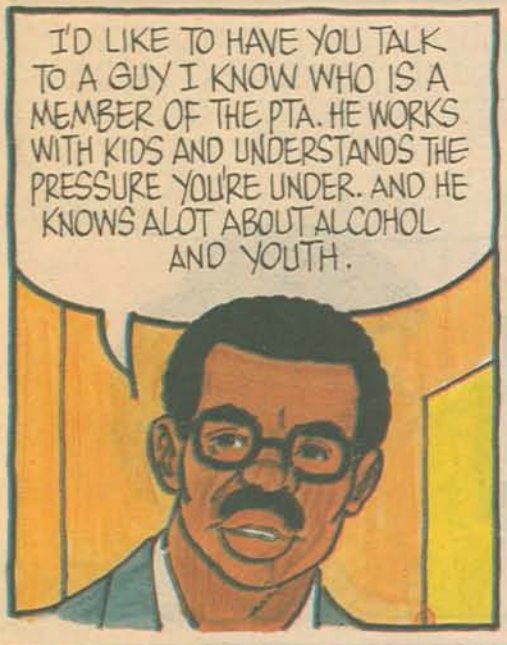

YEAH. ALCOHOL IS A KIND OF DRUG CALLED 'DEPRESSANT.' IT DEPRESSES THE AREAS OF THE BRAIN THAT AFFECT COORDINATION, THINKING, AND JUDGMENT. IT CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL, HOME, AND ON THE COURT.
BUT WHERE'S THE REAL PROBLEM?

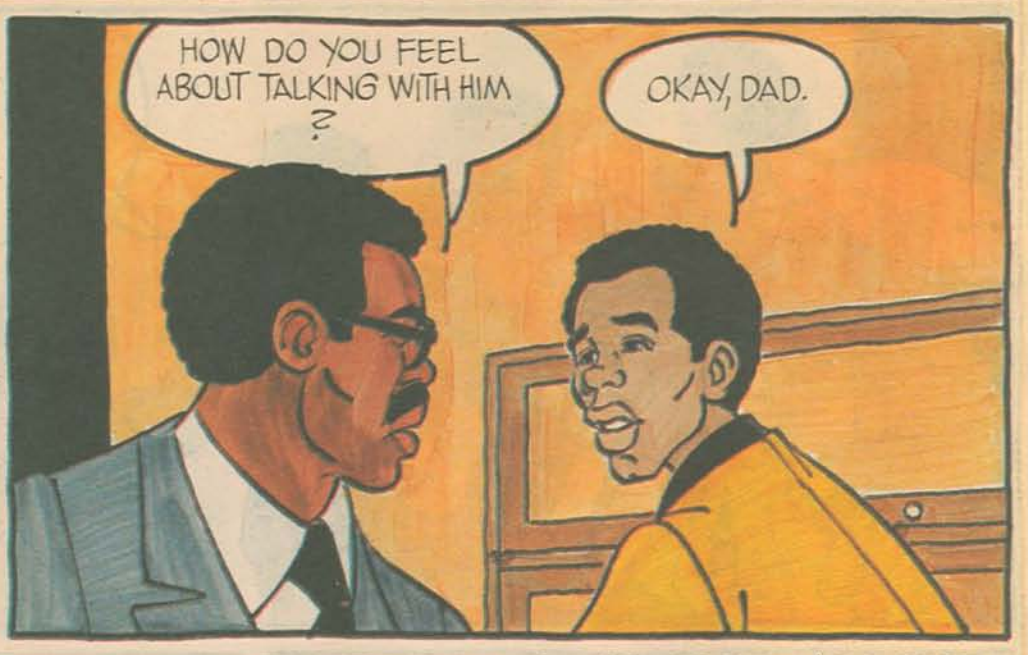
IF YOU'RE A BALL PLAYER AND DRINK YOU PROBABLY MISS SHOTS THAT ARE EASY. IT'S ALSO IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDIES IN SCHOOL AND KEEP YOUR GRADES UP. IF YOU DRIVE AFTER DRINKING YOUR CHANCES OF HAVING A CAR WRECK INCREASE.

BUT I ONLY DRINK A LITTLE WITH MY FRIENDS.
SON, WE'RE ALSO YOUR FRIENDS. WHAT THE COACH IS SAYING IS THAT DRINKING ALCOHOL AT YOUR AGE CAN INTERFERE WITH YOUR LIFE NOW AND YOUR FUTURE.
YOUR MOM IS RIGHT, SON. I WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU LET DOWN YOUR COACH, YOUR TEAM, AND YOUR SCHOOL. THEY WERE DEPENDING ON YOU TO HELP THE TEAM BRING HOME THE CHAMPIONSHIP.
THE TRUTH IS, DRINKING AT YOUR AGE CARRIES TOO MANY CONSEQUENCES BECAUSE IT CAN AFFECT ALMOST ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE, LIKE SCHOOL, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND SELF-RESPECT.
BUT WE JUST DRINK TO HAVE FUN. I NEVER THOUGHT ALL THESE PROBLEMS WOULD COME UP.
YOU ALSO LET YOURSELF DOWN. IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE FRIENDS BUT IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO HAVE SELF-RESPECT AND THE RESPECT OF OTHERS.
YOU KNOW THAT PRESSURE TO DRINK WILL BE THERE. THE QUESTION IS, HOW WILL YOU COPE WITH IT, KNOWING THE CONSEQUENCES?

WELL, DAD, I DON'T WANT THE GUYS TO THINK I'M ACTING LIKE A BABY, BUT I SURE DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD KEEP ME FROM PLAYING BALL. MY GOAL IS TO GO TO COLLEGE AND BECOME A PRO BASKETBALL PLAYER.


THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME AND I DON'T WANT TO CHANCE NOT BEING HEALTHY ENOUGH TO DO THAT, OR ANYTHING ELSE I WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE.
SAYING NO ISN'T EASY. YOUR FRIENDS KNOW THAT, TOO, EVEN IF THEY DON'T ADMIT IT TO YOU.


I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU TALK TO A GUY I KNOW WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PTA. HE WORKS WITH KIDS AND UNDERSTANDS THE PRESSURE YOU'RE UNDER. AND HE KNOWS ALOT ABOUT ALCOHOL AND YOUTH.



HEY, YOU GUYS, I OWE YOU ONE. MAYBE WE CAN GET A GAME IN WEDNESDAY AT THE PLAYGROUND.
SEE THERE, YOU GUYS... I TOLD YOU BUZZY WAS AN OKAY DUDE.

SOUNDS LIKE BUZZY HAS STOPPED DRINKING AND FEELS GOOD ABOUT HIMSELF. HE HAS THINGS UNDER CONTROL AGAIN. HIS LETTERS IN BASKETBALL CAN SPELL A HAPPY FUTURE FOR HIM IF HE'S SMART.

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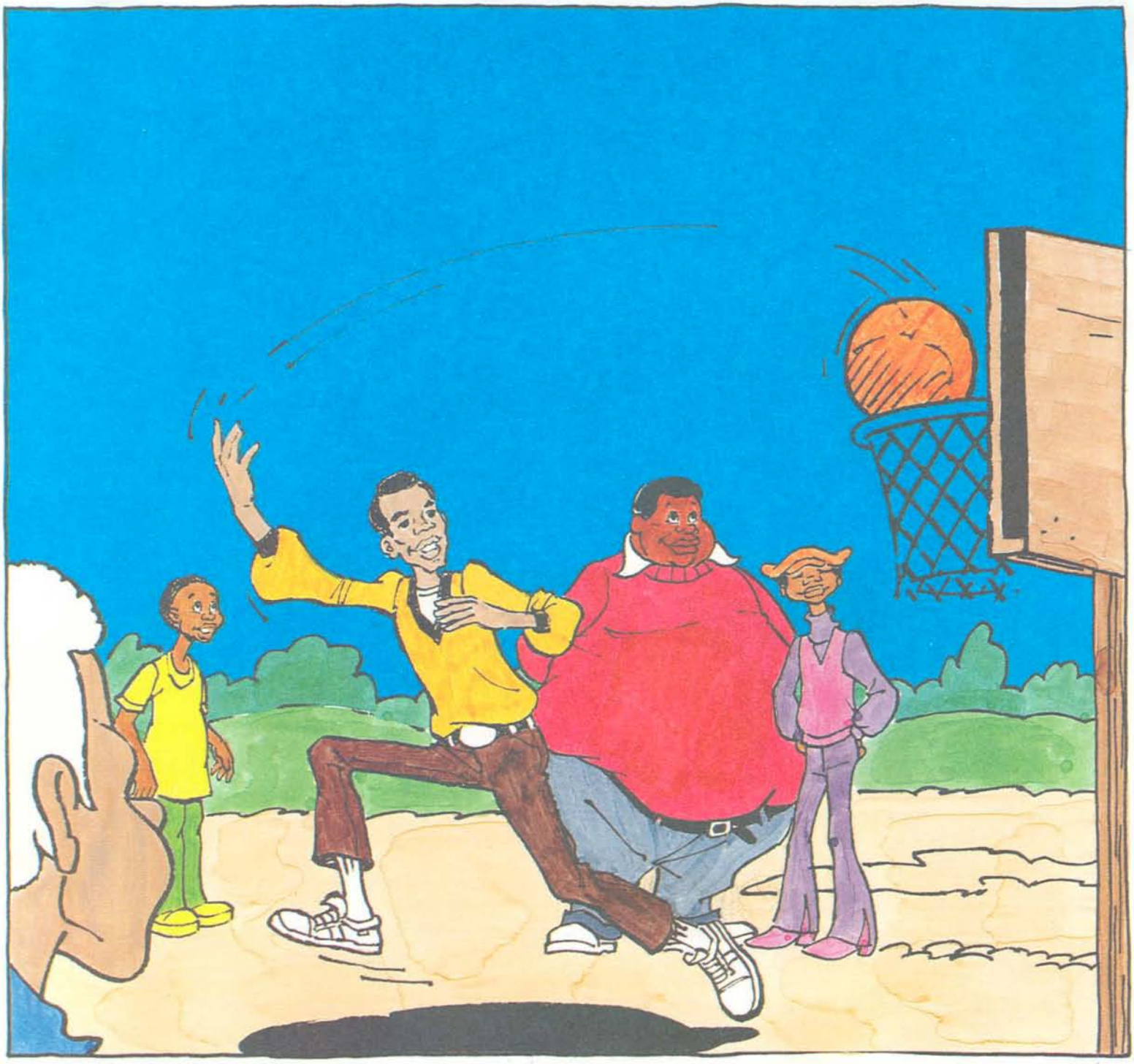

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